R375

R I4004)2ZYRZSAHYD

AM-CHILDREN 2 LOME

THE INVESTIGATION WAS ORDERED AT A FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT IN RWANDA LAST MONTH AFTER ALLEGATIONS BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAT THE EMPEROR'S GUARDS MASSACRED UP TO 100 CHILDREN AND YOUTHS IN A BANGUI PRISON.

THEY WERE SAID TO HAVE PROTESTED AT THE COMPULSORY PURCHASE OF SCHOOL UNIFORMS, MADE BY A FIRM OWNED BY ONE OF THE EMPEROR'S WIVES.

THE MASKED MAN WHO TOLD FRENCH TELEVISION THE EMPERO[illegible]AS INVOLVED DIRECTLY ALSO SAID: "HE WAS WEARING BATTLE DRESS, CARRYING HIS CANE, HE WAS FURIOUS. HE TOLD US HE HAD GIVEN US EVERYTHING, SCHOLARSHIPS, DIPLOMAS AND EVEN UNIFORMS TO SET US APART FROM THE REST AND WE WERE GETTING WHAT WE DESERVED.

"... THE EMPEROR STAYED ABOUT HALF AN HOUR AND CHANGED GUNS SEVERAL TIMES. HE TOLD THE OFFICERS: 'I WILL SEND YOU SACKS AND YOU WILL PUT THE BODIES IN THEM AND YOU WILL THROW THE REST IN THE RIVER.'"

MORE 1715

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Ruis DATE 1977
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXP. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☒
DECLASSIFIED ☐ DECLASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R376

R I4009)LZYRZSACYN

AM-CHILDREN 3 LOME

THE CENTRAL AFRICANS INTERVIEWED BY FRENCH TELEVISION ALL SEEMED YOUNG, BUT HID THEIR FACES FROM THE CAMERA OR TURNED THEIR BACKS. THEY SAID ABOUT A HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE WERE KILLED, ADDING THAT THEY HAD TO MOVE THE BODIES.

A MAN WHO SAID HE ESCAPED BECAUSE GUARDS THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD SAID THE BODIES WERE BURIED IN MASS GRAVES.

OTHERS DESCRIBED THE SCENE OUTSIDE THE PRISON WHEN THEY WERE RELEASED THREE DAYS AFTER THE ALLEGED MASSACRE.

"THERE WERE MOTHERS WAITING OUTSIDE," ONE SAID. "THOSE WHO DID NOT SEE THEIR CHILDREN COME OUT WENT INTO THE PRISON AND GOT TO THE CELLS, WHICH WERE COVERED IN BLOOD. THE WOMEN WERE WEEPING, FAINTING, PULLING OUT THEIR HAIR."

REUTER 1717